

OCTOBER

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2024



Be aware that Phantasmagoria Spirits are in this issue

**Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and
roll-over effects**

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Click on Slide Image to view
the Fall Season



The Magic Lantern Calendar –October 2024

Events

Oct. 2, 2024, **Conference: La Lanterne Magique (The Magic Lantern)**, tracing the origins of the cinematographic language by tracing the history of the magic lantern and evoking its success through the projection of authentic plates from previous centuries, Salle de conference, 1st etage du Palais de la Loure, Bourgogne, France.

Oct. 3, 2024, **Museum Mornings – the History and Science of Moving Images**, learn about magic lanterns, dissolving slides, phantasmagoria, phenakistoscopes, zoetropes and mutoscopes during this interactive talk by guest speaker Richard Rennie, Subiaco Museum, 239 Rokeby Rd., Subiaco, WA 6008, Australia.

Oct. 8, 2024, **Arkell's Ambition – the Magic of Mt. McGregor**, images of the luxurious wilderness resort provided by the wonders of the magic lantern and the Grant Cottage Historic Site, Saratoga County History Center, 21 Fairground Ave, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Oct. 12, 2024, **Phantasmagoria!** Magic lantern performers Dawn Elliott and Joel Schlemowitz recreate the experience of the PPhantasmagoria, Johnson Hall State Historic Site, 139 Hall Ave, Johnstown, NY 12095.

Oct. 12, 2024, **Pumpkintown: Songs, Stories and Magic Lantern Projections from an Imaginary New England Village**, Next Stage Arts Project, 15 Kimball Hall, Putney, VT.

Oct. 15-17, 2024, **Make Movie Magic**, an adventure into early moving images, Victorian animation techniques and optical toys inspired by a magic lantern projector, Riverside Museum, 100 Pointhouse Place, Glasgow G3 8RS, UK.

Oct. 16, 2024, **Persephone**, magic lantern workshop for children age 6 and over, guided by the Braquage collective, Betonsalon Center for Art and Research, 9 esplanade Pierre Vidal-Naquet, 75013 Paris, France.

Oct. 19, 2024, **Magic Lantern Show**, 150 years ago, the towns of the South East were regularly visited by travelling entertainers. Decades before the movies, they projected 'beautiful dissolving views' through magic lanterns powered by limelight. Headland Writers Festival 2024, Tathra Town Hall, Tathra NSW 2550, Australia.

Oct. 19, 2024, **Autumn Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Swedenborg Hall, 20-21 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2TH, England.

Oct. 24, 2024, **Lost Victorian City: A London Disappeared**, an evening of specially devised entertainment by Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker from the Magic Lantern Society (UK), the London Archives, 40 Northampton Rd., London EC1R 0HB, England.

Oct. 25, 2024, **The (Somewhat) Sinister, (Mostly) Supernatural Halloween Magic Lantern Show**, welcoming lanternist and PRS Contributing Artist Matt Schnittker's gorgeous and surreal Halloween Magic Lantern Show, The Philosophical Research Society, 3910 Los Feliz Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

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Calendar –continued

- Oct. 26, 2024, **Monster Mash**, join experimental animator Melissa Ferrari and experience her wonderful take on the classic tradition of magic lantern phantasmagoria slides. Academy of Motion Pictures, 6067 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90036.
- Oct. 27, 2024, **The Magic Lantern**, The Prince Albert, Rodborough Hill, Stroud, England, GL5, UK.
- Oct. 30, 2024, **Phantasmagoria: Lighting the World Beyond**, magic lanternist Melissa Ferrari and historian Dr. Franziska Hohlt will transform Friendship auditorium into an immersive horror theater full of fantastical and dreamlike imagery, a preview of their premiere (below) LA Breakfast Club Friendship Auditorium, 3201 Riverside Drive, Los Angeles CA90089.
- Oct. 30, 2024, **Phantasmagoria: Lighting the World Beyond**, celebrating the opening of the USC Libraries' exhibition Spectral Science: Visions of the World Beyond, magic lanternist, animator and filmmaker Melissa Ferrari will stage a theatrical performance inspired by the phantasmagoria. Doheny Memorial Library, Los Angeles Times Reference Room, 3550 Trousdale Parkway, Los Angeles CA90089.
- Nov. 1-3, 2024, **Dia De Los Muertos**, including magic lantern show by Matt Schnittker, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, 4002 Wallace St., San Diego CA 92110.
- Nov. 2, 2024, **The Phantasmagoria: A Day of the Dead Magic Lantern Show**, lanternists Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker will summon up this art of illusionists, Guy's Hospital Chapel, St. Thomas Street, London SE1, England.
- Nov. 15-17, 2024, **Journey through Time**, magic lantern show by Matt Schnittker, Strathearn Historical Park, 137 Strathearn Pl, Simi Valley, CA 93065.
- Nov. 21, 2024, **A Magic Lantern Show**, talk by Irene Marriott, Southwick Camera Club, Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick St., Southwick, BN42 4TE, England.
- Nov. 23 and 24, 2024, **Victorian Christmas**, experience the traditions of Christmas as the Schoolmaster entertains you with a seasonal Magic Lantern Show, Halifax Citadel National Historic Site, 5425 Sackville St., Halifax, B3J 3Y3, Nova Scotia, Canada.
- Dec. 15, 2024, **A Family Edwardian Christmas at Lauriston Castle**, includes a traditional magic lantern show, Lauriston Castle, 2a Cramond Road South, Edinburgh, Scotland EH4 5QD UK
- Dec. 15, 2024, **Magic Lantern Show**, a glimpse of 19th-century Venice through original slides of the period, enhancing a little-known but historically & aesthetically valuable photographic heritage, brought to life by Laura Minici Zotti, founder of the museum. Museo del Precinema, Prato della Valle 1/A, Padova, Italy.
- Jan. 25, 2025, **Annual General Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), The Musical Museum, 399 High Street, Brentford, London TW8 0DU, England.
- Through 2025, **Project Space Residency**, featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Calendar –continued

Exhibits

Through Oct. 31, 2024, **Exhibition: Collection, tell us a story**, stories through time, dimensions and space, in the world of the magic lantern, Musee de la Loire, Place de la Resistance, 58200 Cosne-Cours-Sur-Loire, France

Oct. 1 to Nov. 5, 2024, **Magic Lantern Tour**, offering visitors a captivating peek into Salem, Massachusetts' supernatural history. Participants explore the city's haunting sites while a magic lantern show p=transports them back in time, projecting rare 19th-century glass slides. Salem, MA. Book at roryobrien-books.com/tours

Through Jan. 19, 2025, **In Your Wildest Dreams: Ensor Beyond Impressionism**, focusing on James Ensor's fascination with masks, skeletons, and caricatures, lanternists Ditmar Bollaert features a chamber theatre with continuous video projection, royal Museum of Fine Arts, Leopold de Waelplaats 1, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium.

Through Dec. 29. 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildrewelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Online

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact **Terry Borton**: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Media History Digital Library, <https://mediahistoryproject.org/collections/magic-lantern/> Magic lantern ephemera.

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

The Museum of American Magic Lantern Shows, 5-minute intro, 10-minute Highlights Tour, 30-minute In-Depth Tour and Kids' Page. www.magiclanternmuseum.com

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.



**To our Convention hosts
Matt Schnittker &
Melissa Ferrari**

The Location



**From the Queen Mary Welcome
Aboard Pocket Folder**

QUEEN MARY HISTORY

The R.M.S. (Royal Mail Ship) Queen Mary was built in Clydebank, Scotland, and upon her maiden voyage in May of 1936 was considered the grandest ocean liner ever built. In the glory

A Summary of The 20th International Convention

days, the creme of high society considered her the most civilized way to cross the North Atlantic Ocean.

After three years carrying passengers and mail between Southampton and New York, the Queen Mary was "drafted" into service in March 1940 as a troop ship in the early days of World War II. She was nicknamed "The Grey Ghost" because her entire hull and superstructure from bow to stern was painted grey to act as a camouflage and defense mechanism to avoid German U-boats and surface raiders.

In July 1943, the Queen Mary set the world's record for carrying more human beings ever transported on an ocean voyage, a staggering 16,683 souls! The heroic vessel continued her service as a troopship and a war bride and baby transport vessel until 1946. During her war service, Winston Churchill was a frequent passenger. It was aboard the Queen Mary plans for the D-Day invasion were discussed.

The Queen Mary served the Allied cause and played a significant role in virtually every major campaign by carrying some 810,730 military personnel across nearly 700,000 miles of ocean.

The Queen Mary resumed peacetime passenger service in 1947 and along with her sister ship, the Queen Elizabeth, served another 20 years weaving a tapestry of goodwill and understanding between the old and new worlds.

However, in the early 1960's all passenger liners began to lose money. Jet air travel was becoming the primary mode of transatlantic transportation.

so the Cunard Line put the Queen Mary up for sale. The highest bid came from the City of Long Beach, California at \$3.45 million. She set sail on her Last Great Cruise, a 39-day voyage, on October 31, 1967 and arrived in Long Beach on December 9, 1967. Because she is eight feet too wide and 19 feet too long to fit through the Panama Canal, she had to sail down the coast of South America and around Cape Horn in order to get here.

Over the next few years she was transformed into a floating hotel, convention center, and tourist attraction. The Queen Mary reopened to the public in 1971. In 1993 the ship was placed on the National Register of Historic Places under the designation "With Historic Significance." She has now been visited by nearly 50,000,000 people since embarking upon her present role.

Long Live the Queen!



Photo by Melissa Ferrari

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Summary of Convention continued

From the Society Facebook Site

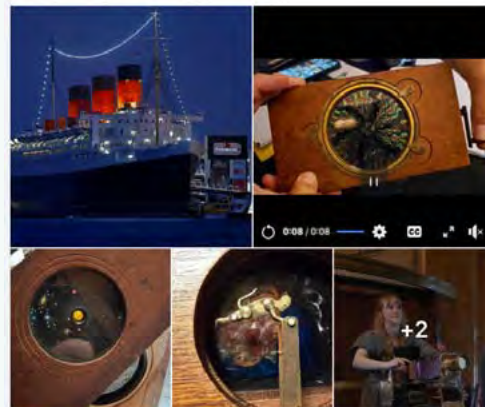


The Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.magiclanternsociety.org>

Posted by Jason Anderson

A great 2024 Convention on the Queen Mary! If you are not already a member and you follow The Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada you should seriously consider becoming a REAL supporting member! If you're looking for a deep dive into a mysterious field of story telling with early projectors, special effects and puppetry, look no further. This place has it all: art, drama, humor, spicy Victorian slides, fascinating working antiques, spooky stories, and community outreach. You have to see it to believe it. Become a patron of this art by becoming a member and joining in the fun! Truly, consider it. Become a member today here:
<https://www.magiclanternsociety.org/about-society/join/>



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MORE

**Coming
Next Month**



**Coming in the Next Issue
November E-pub**

**More information and images
from the Convention Attendees**



From Larry Cederblom

I asked several participants and society members at the convention to share their photos and feelings about the convention for a special feature in the November E-pub.

If you were at the convention and would like to share your experience please e-mail me,
designerlc@comcast.net



**Looking for information about the
Queen Mary's advanced projection
support devices**

Lantern slides

From Patrick Cade

houseofsticks@quadro.net

Good day to you.

I'm cleaning up my parent's estate. These two boxes of Magic Lantern slides were stashed in the farmhouse attic.

The first box contains photos of the play "Pilgrim's Progress". The second contains drawings/prints (lithographs?) of presumably the late 1800's China. Both are black and white images.



Could you suggest someone, in Canada, that might offer them a new home?

I really don't wish to donate them, or put them on Kijiji.

I appreciate your assistance.

Patrick Cade

From David Evans

Good day Patrick

We can add them to our next e-publication (October). It would help if you could send pictures of a few of the slide images, so that we can assess quality and condition. If you would give me an idea of your location, that would be helpful too, as it could affect shipping costs.

Thank you for contacting us.

David Evans





Panoramic Slides

From Russ Yonda

ryonda@sbcglobal.net

Please see the attached photo. I have had these slides for some twenty five years, and I mounted them in a backlit shadowbox for display in my den. I believe they are mid 19th century English. They are in overall excellent condition. The green color on the tablecloth and upholstered chair has degraded over time, and there is a visible scratch across the torso of the old lady with the tiara on the lower slide. All of the frames are undamaged. I am at that stage of life where I'm looking to preserve some of the objects I've collected, including these slides. They are fascinating, and I want to find someone who would also want to preserve them. I don't know how to proceed with this intention. What can you suggest? Thanks.

Russ Yonda

Hello David,

I really appreciate your response. Perhaps through pure serendipity my slides are mounted away from any natural light, and I have only occasionally turned on the lights for short periods of time. The lights, by



the way, are a string of "fairy lights" of very low intensity - more sheer luck.

I probably paid no more than \$20 for them. They were wrapped in Saran wrap and sitting on a pile of miscellaneous junk in an antique/flea market in Ste Genevieve, Missouri. I have no price in mind, as I have no idea what the level of interest might be. Could it be listed in your next publication as "for sale to interested buyers, please contact me with your offer" or words to that effect", or do I need to establish a price point? A detail about the slides - they are 19" by 4" in size. I'm located in Springfield, Illinois

Russ

From David Evans

Hello Russ

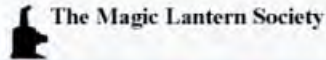
Thank you for contacting us. I would hesitate to call your slides Phantasmagoria, though they do have skeletons etc illustrated. They are circa mid-19th century so-called panoramic slides - made to push through a fixed single lantern to either provide images in sequence for a story or sometimes as a kind of procession. Museums, when mounting slides on back-lit boxes, make sure that they are only lit for a very short time whilst examining them and have a black curtain over the front of the box to prevent colour deterioration. It is a pity that your greens and faded.

We could add these to our next e-publication (October) if you wish. Do you have a price in mind? Where are you located please, as this could affect shipping costs etc.

Regards

David Evans

MAGIC LANTERN AWARDS



Magic Lantern Society Awards

The Mervyn Heard Award



The Dick Balzer Award



From Jeremy Brooker,

MAGIC LANTERN AWARDS 2024

The Magic Lantern Society is proud to support original work on the magic lantern. Lantern slides and optical projection with two annual awards named for Mervyn Heard and Dick Balzer. Internationally respected as

Entries for this year's Awards



Melissa Ferrari



Mervyn Heard

scholars, collectors and performers, they were also notable for their openness to new ideas and new ways of working. In memory of Dick and Mervyn, the Magic Lantern Society is pleased to contribute to the development of new research and talent with two awards in their name.

Entries for this year's Awards must be received by Sunday 10th November so there is still plenty of time to come up with your entry (or, indeed, entries!). The Awards are open to all, whether you are a member of the Magic Lantern Society or not, and any magic lantern-related proposals are welcome. Performance ideas, creative endeavours, archiving or research projects. If it's of interest to you the Award judges would love to hear about it!

Please feel free to circulate this information to anyone you think might be interested.

Thanks!

With best wishes

Jeremy

Some Halloween Fun

Click on Images for the Fun

Be aware that Phantasmagoria Spirits are Here

A Big Thank You to the following:

Jason Anderson
Jeremy Brooker
Patrick Cade
David Evans
Brian Rogers
Russ Yonda

for contributing
to this months issue.

Welcome New Members

Robin Dasler
Foster City, CA

Mike Jones
West Midlands, UK

**Jason Anderson &
Victoria Pamlenji**
Garden Grove, CA

Upcoming Event

Once again the Society Display Table will be at Puget Sound Collectors
Camera Show 46th PSCS Sale, Swap & Photographica Show
scheduled for October 5, 2024 at Kent Commons WA

The largest one day Camera Sale, Swap and
Show in the Western United States will be held on
Saturday October 5 from 8:30 am to 3 pm at Kent
Commons Recreation Center - 525 Fourth Ave
North, Kent, Washington.

<https://www.pspcs.org/our-annual-show>



MLS
information
table. Our Society
has had a presence at this annual
event since the beginning of the Society with
Joe Koch and Bob Bishop hosting the table.

Lantern Slide Makers

